GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4281
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
SHORTAGE OF GODOWNS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than thirty lakh tonnes of foodgrains stored in Government godowns have rotten due to shortage of godowns, mismanagement in maintenance and negligence of officers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): No, Sir. No foodgrains have rotten in Government godowns due to shortage of godowns, mismanagement in maintenance and negligence of officers. As is evident from the table given below, sizeable storage accommodation is still available lying vacant un-utilised as on 28.2.2003:-

(in lakh MTs)

	Covered	CAP+	Total
Capacity	268.4	55.46	323.86
Stock	183.21	16.08	199.29
%age utilisation	68%	29%	62%

(+ Cover and Plinth Storage)

Foodgrains are stored in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns in scientific manner and preserved bytechnically trained and qualified quality control staff. Regular and periodic inspections of stocks are carried out by the officers of the FCI and timely prophylactic and curative treatment is carried out for the control of insect pests. However, due to vagaries of weather and natural calamities like unprecedented/incessant rains, cyclones, floods, and spillage, multiple handling in storage, transportation by rail/roads etc. some damage does occur to foodgrains. The quantity of such damage occurred to foodgrains as on 28.2.2003 is 1.42 lakh MTs which is only 0.7% of the total stock holding.

Foodgrains which become unfit for human consumption and declared damaged (rotten) are categorized as Feed-I, Feed-II, Feed-III, Industrial use and fit for dumping etc. depending upon the percentage of sound grains in a particular lot and are disposed off as per laid down procedure of the Government of India for the purpose indicated above.

(b); In view of above, question does not arise.